

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 EPA-04

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 044043

R 012104Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7965

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: STATE 064175

1. EDMONDS, COUNSELOR OF CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS
AT BRITISH EMBASSY, INFORMS US THAT NEXT MINISTERIAL
MEETING ON CONCORDE IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE AROUND
APRIL 9 IN LONDON.

2. EDMONDS SAID THAT AT MARCH 29 MEETING

BETWEEN ACHILLE-FOULD AND WEDGEWOOD-BENN, FRENCH
HAD PUT FORWARD THEIR POSITION ON CONCORDE'S FUTURE
AS ADOPTED LAST MONTH AND HAD ASKED FOR SIMILAR
STATEMENT OF UK POSITION. BRITISH HAD RESPONDED
THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE FIRM POSITION; THEY HAD COME
TO MEETING AS PARTNERS IN PROJECT AND WISHED TO
DISCUSS RANGE OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND RELATED
RAMIFICATIONS BEFORE TAKING A POSITION. EDMONDS
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CONFIRMED THAT RANGE OF PROBLEMS OF COURSE EXTENDED

TO POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF PROJECT AS ONE EXTREME. BRITISH FELT THAT THIS RANGE OF PROBLEMS HAD TO BE GIVEN CAREFUL STUDY BEFORE FINAL POSITION COULD BE ADOPTED.

3. EDMONDS SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO BRITISH THAT ACHILLE-FOULD HOPED TO HAVE PROBLEM OF CONCORDE'S FUTURE SETTLED BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR US ON APRIL 21,

ENABLING HIM TO REPORT IN WASHINGTON JUST WHERE CONCORDE PROJECT STANDS. HOWEVER, EDMONDS SAID, UK DOUBTS THAT SITUATION WILL HAVE EVOLVED TO POINT OF DECISION BY THEN. AS TO ACHILLE-FOULD SUGGESTION (REFTEL) THAT THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT BE NECESSARY (I.E., BEFORE APRIL 21), EDMONDS SAID THAT PRESSURE FOR THIRD MEETING WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME WOULD CERTAINLY NOT COME FROM BRITISH.

4. EDMONDS SAID THAT NEW WRINKLE IN GOF POSITION THAT CAME AS SOME SURPRISE TO BRITISH WAS EMPHASIS PLACED ON NEED TO SETTLE CONCORD'S FUTURE BEFORE ACHILLE-FOULD'S TRIP TO US. HE SAID THAT BRITISH RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT SST WAS VERY MUCH ON ACHILLE-FOULD'S MIND FOR WASHINGTON AGENDA, BUT THIS IN BROAD CONTEXT OF REYKJAVIK SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP, POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION WITH US ON NEXT

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DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 EPA-04

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----- 044039

R 012104Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7966

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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GENERATION OF SST TRANSPORT, ETC.

5. WE FILLED IN EDMONDS ON BACKGROUND OF PLANS FOR ACHILLE-FOULD'S US TRIP, NOTING TIMING AND PROGRAM WERE AS PLANNED FOR PREVIOUS TRANSPORT MINISTER (GUENA), THAT PRESENT MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT GUICHARD HAD BEEN INVITED BUT ACHILLE-FOULD WOULD GO IN HIS STEAD, AND THAT FORMAL INVITATION HAD NOT YET BEEN ISSUED TO ACHILLE-FOULD PENDING RECEIPT OF REGRETS FROM GUICHARD IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY BRINEGAR'S INVITATION. (COMMENT: EDMONDS' EVIDENT APPRECIATION OF ABOVE DETAILS, ON WHICH HE QUESTIONED US CLOSELY, SUGGESTED BRITISH CURIOSITY HAD INDEED BEEN AROUSED BY ACHILLE-FOULD'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS US TRIP AND THE COINCIDENCE OF ITS TIMING RE FRANCO-BRITISH TALKS ON CONCORDE.)

6. WHEN QUERIED IN TURN RE TIMING OF NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING, MEMBER OF ACHILLE-FOULD'S STAFF INFORMED US ONLY THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE UNDERWAY FOR MEETING SOMETIME NEXT WEEK BUT NO DATE HAD YET BEEN FIXED.
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WHEN WE INQUIRED ABOUT RESULTS OF MARCH 29 MEETING, THIS OFFICIAL SAID ONLY THAT "RESULTS WERE NOT AS DESCRIBED IN BRITISH PRESS" AND VOLUNTEERED NO FURTHER DETAILS. (WE PROFITED FROM THIS CONTACT TO URGE PROMPT DELIVERY OF GUICHARD LETTER -- PARIS 7806 NOTAL -- SO THAT WE MIGHT SEND FORMAL INVITATION TO ACHILLE-FOULD AND REGULARIZE PLANS FOR VISIT THAT WAS NOW IN PUBLIC DOMAIN. HE SAID THAT RESPONSE TO SECRETARY BRINEGAR'S MESSAGE WAS BEING SENT TO GUICHARD FOR SIGNATURE TODAY.)
STONE

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Message Attributes

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